

New Hartford, August 23. 1843.

Maria H. Chapman,

My Dear Friend,

Here I am imprisoned, and Mrs Collins the Turnkey, who is determined that I shall neither speak, read, nor write. I continued to labor, as long as my strength would permit. It was quite an effort for me to yield, but I found that I must either desist from labor, or cease to live. As to the wisdom of the decision to chose the former alternative, the future will best determine.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter at Syracuse, and should have answered it at the time, but my mind was greatly distressed in relation to the Ohio appointments. I did not know what to write at that time. Had not the appointments appeared in the Liberator, when they did, I should have made my way thither. I received information from Dr Brooke at Buffalo, in season to direct both series of ~~addresses~~, in their Ohio course.

The conventions were mostly well attended. Bradburn however, felt quite groggy, unless all creation turned out to hear him. He was constantly finding fault with the policy of holding conventions, and gave his preference for the lecturing plan. He is rather too great a man in his own estimation, for hard work and rough usage, however he is a good fellow, and secures much interest. He has failings, and who has not. Douglass worked well, and secured many friends, both to himself and the cause, as for myself I have been a mere cypher. I have been able to accomplish nothing I fear for the cause. Every thing however, went on favorably until we arrived at Syracuse. Douglass & Remond, were kind and friendly. In that place, we had

a three days Convention. It was both large and interesting. Now in Syracuse, from some cause or other, I am not very unpopular. Here, the property question has as strong a hold on the affections of the people ~~than~~ as Antislavery. A property meeting was held the day after the Antislavery Convention was adjourned sine die, which was equally as well attended as the Antislavery. Now Abby Kelley was there — and she hates the property question, as the slaveholder hates antislavery. She is intolerant beyond degree. She was outraged, that a meeting should be held immediately on the heels of an antislavery convention, to divert the attention and distract the minds of the people. She contended that I was building up with one hand and tearing down with the other. That all the good I accomplished as an abolitionist, was more than counterbalanced by the advocacy of these views. That I was doing Antislavery great injustice by holding the office of general agent, and pursuing the course I did. Contended, that our opponents would identify the two causes, and thus reproach would be cast upon the Antislavery movement. Labored as hard to inspire all with this feeling as ever did Phelps and his new organization friends, to identify old organization with Non-Resistance, though I trust with a better motive. She had an interview with Remond Douglass & Gay, the two first of whom, she brought into a frenzied state. Douglass & Remond came into the property Convention. I spoke about five minutes in opening the meeting. I alluded to the wrong and outrage inflicted upon three millions of our countrymen and then alluded to the suffering of the eight hundred millions, who people this globe, and affirmed that all these mighty and complicated evils, had their foundation in property, force, and a false religion. Douglass groaned, ^{and looked sad.} Remond assumed a more erect posture, his eyes flashed with the fire of excitement, and as soon as I closed my sentence, with a view to take my seat, than Remond was upon his feet, and with an agitated frame, half stifled, angry and furious delivery, disposed of the property question as humbug and moonshine, in a very few minutes. And then came down upon

me like a thunderbolt, and hardly left enough of me, to give the
smell of fire. He accused me of a breach of confidence,
charged me with treachery and deceit, by smuggling this question
in through the influence of anti-slavery, and publicly renounced all
anti-slavery fellowship with me, and those who would sustain
me. After a tirade of this character for nearly an hour, he sat
down, when Douglass took the floor, and in a subdued and feeling
manner, sustained Remond in all his charges, for the space
of an hour. He publicly declared that if I continued in the field, he
should write to the Board, resigning his agency. Whereupon, they left
the meeting, and some fifteen or twenty followed, most of whom were
workmen engaged in the Fair. I defended myself as well as possible from
their assault, not for my own, but for the cause sake. I informed
the convention, that the Board by whom I was employed, took no
cognizance of individual opinion on subjects foreign from the anti-slavery
question, that its members possessed a broad, liberal, and catholic
spirit - that they would be deeply mortified to have the proceedings
on that occasion lead to their charge. I read some extracts from the
letter to me, ~~which~~ the sentiments of which, were highly applauded.
I endeavored to apologize for Douglass & Remond, inasmuch as the one
was a fugitive from slavery, and the other working under the
prejudice exercised against people of his color, and of course it was
to be expected, that any cause, presenting higher claims than Anti-
slavery, would necessarily excite their jealousy and opposition. I gave
them to understand that if their continuing their agencies, depended
upon my resignation, the society would necessarily be deprived of their
services. With scarcely an exception, their cause was condemned. As
soon as the information reached Bradburn he wrote "I regret exceedingly
to hear that Douglass & Remond should have made such an assault upon
you in public after I left Syracuse, and have not hesitated to censure
them both for it." I presume you have heard one side of this question
from Kelley, Gay Douglass & Remond. I have not thus particularized, to excite
your prejudices against these dear friends of the cause, or to secure your
approbation, but to let you have the facts as they are, that you may judge
for yourselves. I esteem the good opinion of the Board, of too high value

to ~~that~~ allow it to be forfeited, for want of an explanation.
 Glad I have the health to prosecute the Antislavery movement, with that energy
 essential to success, could I have attended the meeting, and inspired them
 with enthusiasm and confidence, this little flare up would not have taken
 place. Did my health permit me to go forward now, this affair would soon be
 forgotten, even though I should advocate forty other different movements, but I
 have it not, and what can an impotent man do. I had concluded before reaching
 Syracuse, that duty to my health, and to the cause, required cessation from labor.
 In fact, I am but a shadow of the apology for a man. I cannot write, neither can
 I speak, without throwing me into a high fever, and indescribable pain. Does not
 justice to the cause of the slave demand that my relation to it, be dissolved?
 Narrow minds are within the ranks of old organization the spirit of new organization is
 its midst. Unless I can be of service to the Antislavery cause, I do not wish to be
 identified with it, if I can be of the least benefit to old organized Antislavery, I shall
 rejoice to occupy any position, favorable to its success. Relatively, I regard it as the most
 important ^{movement} which has ever agitated the American people. Within the last twelve years, it has
 accomplished almost infinitely more, than all other associations or combinations in the land,
 to arouse this slumbering people from their supineness, to show them their error, to awaken
 a spirit of investigation and inquiry, to inspire a hatred of spiritual and political
 despotism, to unveil the mystery of the church, and the false, cunning and friend of the slave.

even in this state, it is admirable for me to think
 of the General Abolition Society, which I will speak in
 my relation to the Antislavery Society. I will speak in
 my own name of course. On this point, I think I can do
 just as much for the Society as my individual
 capacity goes through. I was an agent of the Society
 when it was to go on and I was not satisfied with
 the execution, but the Society has refused to
 excommunicate, but I shall never again be the
 health is improving slowly, the weather is
 becoming, but I shall never again be the
 to labor as I have done. If I can meet with
 any success, I shall be willing to act as an
 agent, I shall be willing to spend my
 an account of our connections, but do
 not depend upon it. Remember me
 affectionately to your sister, to Wendell
 Quincy & Jackson. I am sure that father.

With affectionately yours
 Please write me at
 Syracuse, care of Henry
 Thacker.

Miss Collins, will
 I have Boston with
 you. I hope you

John Collins
 Aug 1843
 the Cause.
 Wm. W. Chapman
 29 Summer St.
 Care of J. H. Collins
 Boston
 Mass
 Single

to inspire the people with a confidence in man, and the perfectibility of his nature.
 Its work is not yet done, its spirit is to enter the citadel of the church, and the heart of the
 state, and before its divine presence these oligarchies must tremble, and ultimately fall. The
 two and a half millions of slaves in this country, with all the unspeakable wrongs imposed
 upon them, never filled my whole vision, since my mind was first enlisted in the cause of
 reform, my eye has been fixed upon universal man. I recollect remarking when I first
 became interested for the slave, that if my efforts were to terminate upon two and a half
 millions, I should have but little interest to labor in the cause. I feel now, as I did then,
 looking upon slavery as an effect of the social system, and regarding paid and
 slave labor as different phenomena of the same great principle, and feeling that if
 chattel slavery were abolished all over the world, its cause un molested, why, then,
 the Antislavery cause sinks into comparative insignificance. Absolutely, non resistance
 is a much more comprehensive enterprise than Antislavery, and those who embrace it
 always to be depended upon as uncompromising abolitionists, yet it does not possess the
 power to shake the nation like abolition. If such opinions as an abolitionist are heterodox,
 then I am not an orthodox abolitionist. But enough of this, my sheet is full, as
 I have spoken of what I intended when I commenced this letter. I intend to prepare
 an article soon for the Liberty Press, in relation to its efforts to identify the abolition and
 property questions. If you could forward five hundred extra Liberator's to my address at
 Syracuse.